

30 SEP 1974
UNDERCOVER: Memoirs of an
American Secret Agent. E. Howard
Hunt. Putnam, \$8.95

As few do, Hunt's absorbingly written memoir provides an authentic view of the hangover, in our time, of the romantic good guys vs. bad guys notion that had unquestionable validity during World War II when Hunt went on worldwide "ops" for the OSS--Mexico, China, Japan, etc. Hunt was a derring-doer in a murderous business whose "enemies list" came ready-made. It seems inevitable that the patriotic justifications would carry over from hot war to cold war--and ultimately to the Oval Office. Hunt's fast-paced narrative, read with sophisticated hindsight (and an eye on some seemingly disingenuous passages), fascinates as it carries through his postwar CIA career (Mexico and the Guatemalan coup; the Bay of Pigs) right into Hunt's step-by-step story of Watergate and its aftermath. It hardly seems in Hunt's nature to re-examine the underlying assumptions of his lifetime of undoubted patriotic service. But few readers can escape the weight of his personal tragedy--wife dead, his life shattered. For that reason, its pungent readability and its "revelations" aside, his book seems the most moving account by any Watergate figure thus far. *National ad-promo campaign.*

[November 11]

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